

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method of information processing comprising:

receiving a command from a ~~predetermined user~~ provider apparatus;

processing the command ~~from the predetermined user~~ by utilizing a memory section that ~~includes~~ allocates to a first area and a second area,

~~at the first area for storing data related to at least one user;~~ including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area and

~~a second area allocated, based on the actual amount of information to be stored, within an unused portion of the first area;~~

~~wherein the second area is utilized by the at least one user stored in said first area; and~~

~~wherein the second area is managed in~~ including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size that stores a plurality of data that respectively prescribes different access rights to each of the at least one user stored in the first area, wherein the block unit includes a plurality of blocks that include:

a first block number; and

a second block number;

~~wherein the first and second block numbers reflect the size of the memory area associated with each user based on the actual amount of information stored for each user, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,~~

wherein processing the command includes accessing one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

transmitting results of said processing.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein an unused area of the second area is allocated to said first area.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein processing the command is processed by referring~~includes accessing~~ two or more area definition blocks~~data of having~~ different access rights to a same predetermined area.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein the second area includes a common area which is accessible by two or more of the ~~at least one user~~plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a command from a provider apparatus~~predetermined user;~~

means for processing the received command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,

wherein processing the command includes:

determining the access right data for one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

accessing the predetermined area associated with the one of the plurality of area definition blocks in accordance with the determined access right data;
and

means for transmitting results of said processing and generating a result;

means for transmitting the result of the processed command; and

a memory, the memory includes:

a first area for storing data of at least one user; and

a second area determined on the actual amount of information to be stored, the second area allocated in an unused portion of the first area, the second area utilized by the at least one user stored in the first area;

a block unit configured to manage the second area, the block unit having a predetermined size;

wherein the memory is configured to store a plurality of data for prescribing different access rights to each of the at least one user and wherein the memory includes a predetermined area in said second area that includes a plurality of blocks that include a first block number and a second block number, wherein the first and second block numbers reflect the size of the memory area associated with each of the at least one user based on the actual amount of information stored for each of the at least one user.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The information processing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the second area is accessed by referring-determining the access rights to a same predetermined area associated with two or more area definition blocks data effhaving different access rights to that same predetermined area.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The information processing apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second area includes a block unit defined to be accessed from two or more of the at least one user plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the second area includes a common area which is accessible by two or more of the plurality of provider apparatuses at least one user.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein data related to each access right is either read/write access data or read only access data.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method of information processing comprising:

receiving a command from a provider apparatus;

processing said command by by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,

wherein processing the command includes:

determining the access right data for one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

accessing the predetermined area associated with the one fo the plurality of area definition blocks in accordance with the determined access right data; and

transmitting results of said processingutilizing a memory section:

defining a first area in the memory section, the first area configured to store a plurality of data related to at least one user;

~~defining a second area in an unutilized portion of the first area, wherein the second area is utilized by the at least one user and the size of the second area is based on the actual amount of information stored;~~

~~providing a block unit to manage the second area, wherein the block unit has a predetermined size;~~

~~wherein the block unit stores a plurality of data for prescribing different access rights to each of the at least one user and a predetermined area in said second area in said first area; and~~

~~wherein the block unit includes a plurality of blocks that include a first block number and a second block number, said first and second block numbers reflecting the size of the memory section associated with each user based on the actual amount of information stored for each user; and~~

~~transmitting results of said processing.~~

Claim 26 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a command from an apparatus for providing service;

means for processing the received command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more apparatuses for providing service and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of apparatuses for providing service associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of apparatuses for providing service,

wherein processing the command includes accessing one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the apparatus for providing service; and

means for transmitting results of said processing and generating a result;

means for transmitting the generated results; and

a memory section including;

~~a first area for storing block data relating to one or more service providers; and~~

~~a second area allocated in an unused portion of said first area, wherein the second area is utilized by the one or more service providers stored in the first area and the size of the second area is based on the actual amount of information stored, and~~

~~wherein the second area is managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, the block unit including a plurality of blocks that include a first block number and a second block number, wherein the first and second block numbers reflecting the size of the memory area associated with each user based on the actual amount of information stored for each user;~~

~~wherein the block data stored in the first area includes definition data which defines a predetermined area defined by the blocks in the second area and access right data which defines access rights to the second area, wherein the second area is accessible by a user based on a plurality of the block data stored in the first area, said block data used by the respective service providers including the access right data which defines different access rights to the second area.~~

Claim 27 (currently amended): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 2726, wherein the block unit is configured to be accessed ~~from~~ by two or more service providers.